

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: <i>Howard County Court House</i>				
AND/OR HISTORIC: <i>(Original section only)</i>				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Court Avenue</i>				
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>				
STATE <i>Md. 21043</i>		COUNTY: <i>Howard</i>		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: <i>Howard County</i>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Court Avenue</i>				
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>		STATE: <i>Md. 21043</i>		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <i>Court House</i>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>-Ellicott-City Court Ave.</i>				
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Md. Ellicott City</i>		STATE: <i>Md.</i>		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Added to (Check One) Original EXTERIOR (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered old structure <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
	DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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7. DESCRIPTION - HOWARD COUNTY COURT HOUSE

A Classic Revival structure, built of locally quarried granite and crowned with a tall gilded cupola, the building is an excellent example of the architectural restraint--almost understatement observed in other area structures. Nine shuttered windows surround the plainly paneled front door. Windowed side panels lead up to a simple pediment capping the doorway. The building's classic lines then lead the eye to the cupola high above.

The original section of the Court House was designed and built in 1840-43 by Charles Timanus, who also did the Patapsco Female Institute. Because of the difficulty of transporting materials to the hill site it took more than two years to finish the building. The land was sold to the County by Deborah Disney who owned Disney's tavern on Main Street.

A newer addition was added to the building in the 1950's but it was placed to the rear of the existing structure so that ^{the original} ~~it~~ remains unchanged from the front and side views. It was constructed of cut limestone which the architect assured everyone would weather to match the native granite. Such a miracle will never happen of course and the addition will always remain just that -- an addition. Devoid of architectural interest it performs it's function of adding space to the existing Court House but does nothing else esthetically for the area.

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Seat of H.C. Co.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Gen. since 1843</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE - HOWARD COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The original Court House in Ellicott City stands at the corner of Ellicott's Mills Drive and Main Street and has been rescued from destruction and restored by the Howard County Historical Society.

In 1840 a court was established in Ellicott City and during the years 1840-43 this small building was used as a seat of government.

In 1843 the existing Court House was completed and the functions of the county government began in earnest. Since then and until the 1960's the Court House was the only building housing county government offices with the exception of a few rental buildings in the town which housed such agencies as the Health Department, Department of Public Works and the police.

The county administrator's office, Circuit Court Room, court records, Treasurer, Clerk's Vault and Office, Register of Wills are all housed in the original building still. Files and information in the vaults contain everything from Grand Jury Reports to Stallion Pedigrees of 1909 as well as marriages from 1865-1975.

The grounds of the building are surrounded by a high granite retaining wall. Wide cut granite steps leading to a brick walk bring one to equally divided grass plots each shaded by

(2)
a large maple tree. On one side is a British cannon said to have been captured at the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812 by ''Bachelor'' John Dorsey.

The other side of the lawn is occupied by a monument to the Confederate dead given on September 23, 1948 by the U.D.C.

The building is significant not only architecturally but because it has been a repository for Howard County Government almost since the government began.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schofield - Sachse Map of Ellicott Mills, 1854
Ellicott City, Md. Mill Town USA, Celia Holland, Adams Press, 1970, pp. 203-206

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Original site & acreage. Property site known as
"Capitoline Hill".

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Jean O. Hannon, v. pres. HEC</i>	
ORGANIZATION <i>Historic Ellicott City, Inc.</i>	DATE <i>1/75</i>
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>2416 McKenzie Rd.</i>	
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>	STATE <i>Md. 21043</i>

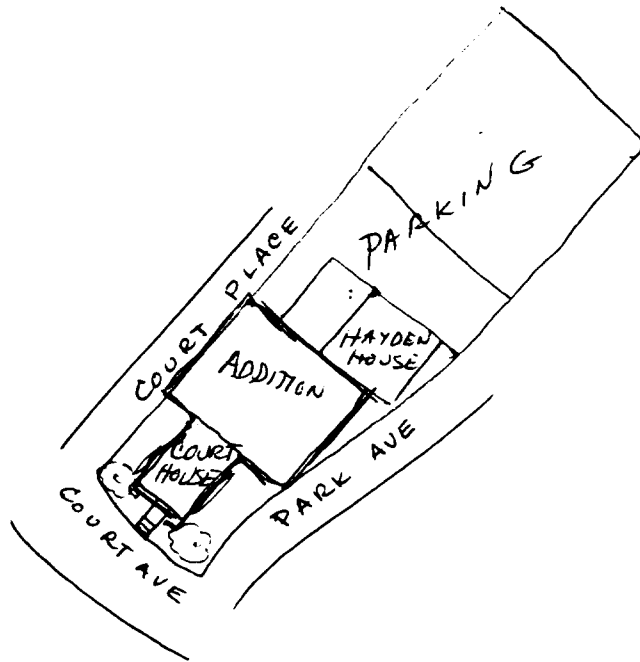
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

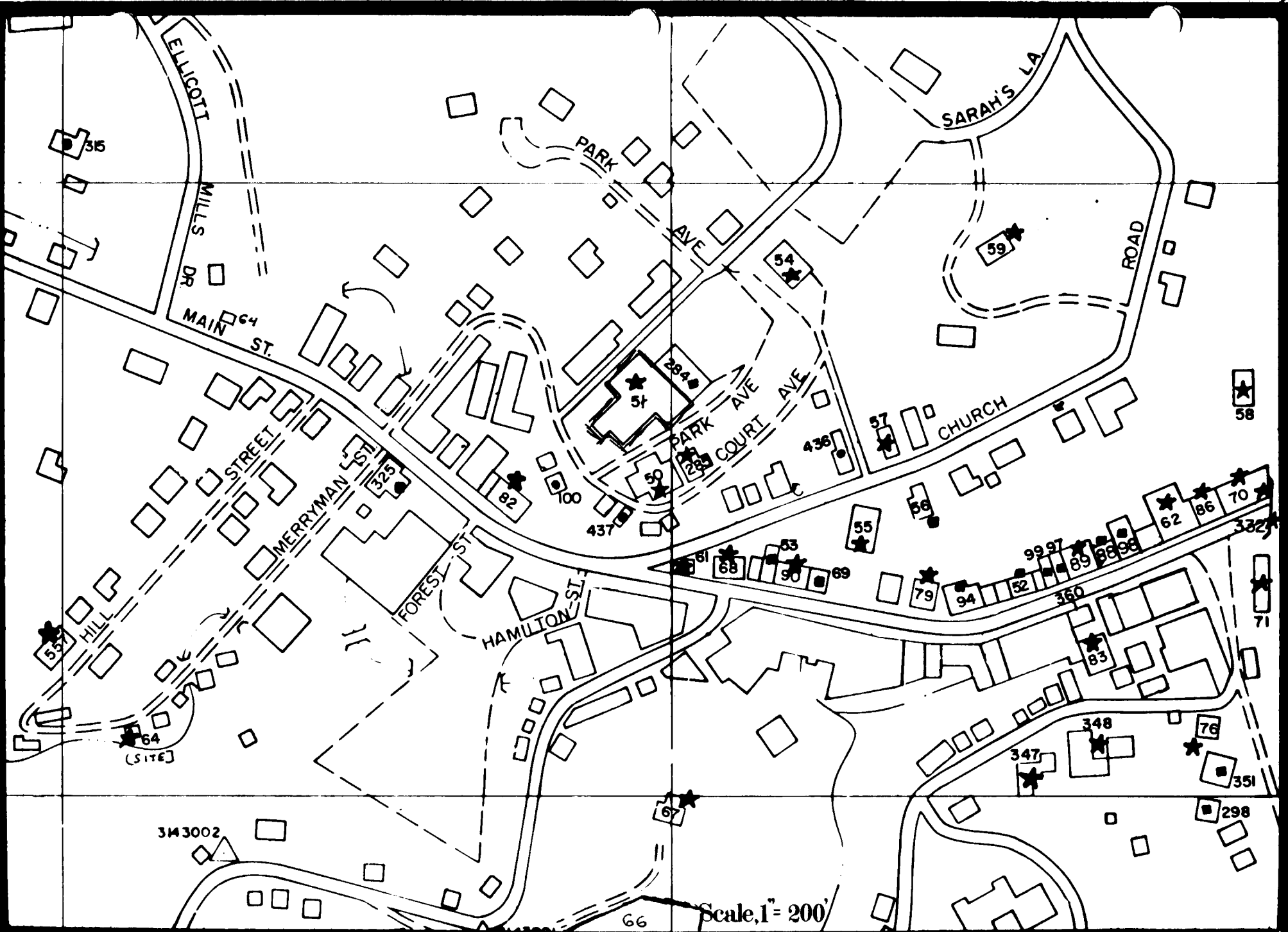
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

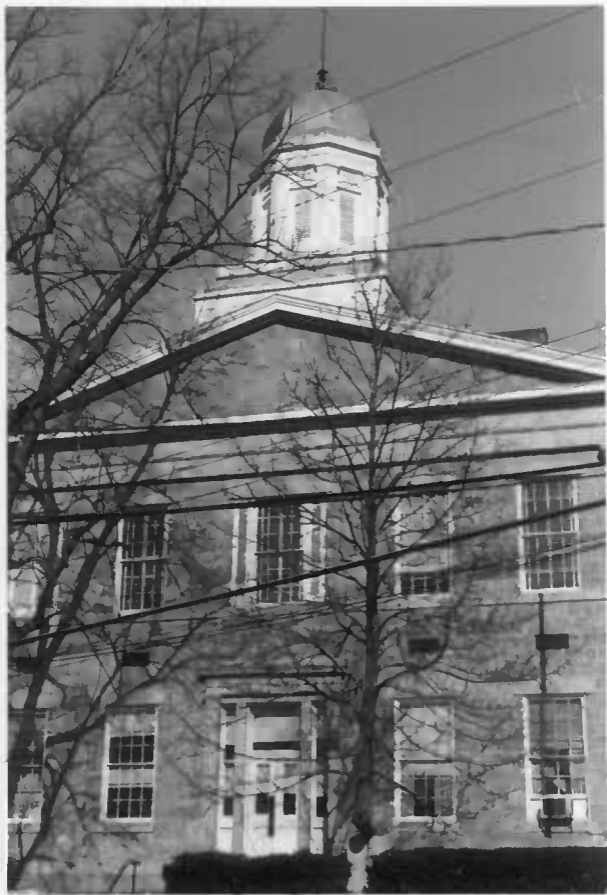
Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



COURT HOUSE





HOWARD CO COURT HOUSI
HOUSE - SO SIDE (FRONT)



East side of
Courthouse facing
South (1)